



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Honoring those who served U.S.

Ardie R. Copas State Veterans' Nursing Home



Location: The Port St. Lucie community of Tradition (St. Lucie County) was awarded the site for the seventh state veterans' nursing home following a unanimous vote of the Governor and Cabinet at the Sept. 23, 2014 Cabinet Meeting. The State of Florida acquired the 28.5-acre site at no cost from St. Lucie County, following a donation by Tradition Land Co. LLC.

Name: The veterans' nursing home is named in honor of a Medal of Honor recipient from the Vietnam War -- Fort Pierce and St. Lucie County native Sergeant Ardie R. Copas. The announcement was made at the Jan. 13, 2015 Cabinet Meeting.

Design: Approximately 121,000 square feet. LEED-certified Silver construction. A total of 120 beds in two neighborhoods each consisting of three houses of 20 beds. One neighborhood of 60 beds will be devoted to residents with Alzheimer's/Dementia. Most residences are two-person semi-private

rooms, with separate living areas and a shared bathroom. Included in the overall design are six bariatric rooms and six private rooms.

The two 60-bed neighborhoods will flank a main building known as the “Heroes Center,” containing the lobby and admissions area, administrative offices, physical therapy, beauty and barbershop, café, chapel, and kitchen and dining facilities.

An office for a veterans’ claims examiner is also included in the design. The veterans’ home will feature a multipurpose room aptly named the “St. Lucie Room,” which FDVA hopes to adorn with art/artifacts relevant to the area.

Number of Employees: Approximately 175 health care, food service, maintenance and administrative staff designed for 24/7 operation.

Groundbreaking: March 20, 2018.

Scheduled Opening: Fall 2020.

Architect: Rogers, Lovelock & Fritz, Inc. (RLF), Orlando

Contractor: OHL-Arellano, Miami

- Both companies selected through a competitive solicitation.

The Florida Department of Veterans’ Affairs operates six veterans’ nursing homes in Daytona Beach, Land O’ Lakes, Pembroke Pines, Panama City, Port Charlotte and St. Augustine and one veterans’ assisted living facility in Lake City.

For more information on the State Veterans’ Homes Program, visit www.FloridaVets.org.

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